

TITLE: CLASSROOM CONSERVATION

GRADE LEVEL: K-6

GOAL: Students will realize that paper and other natural resources can be used and reused in the classroom.

MATERIALS: waste paper, pencils, and writing paper

ACTIVITIES:

1. For one week, ask students to save all waste paper generated by class activities.
2. Assign groups to separate papers into two stacks daily: one, for paper that has been completely used (e.g. on both sides) and one, for paper that could be used again.
3. At the end of the week, compare the amount of paper in the stacks and lead a class discussion on "Are we wasting paper?"
4. Discuss what happens to paper when thrown away. Follow paper from the time it's thrown away in the classroom: paper is collected by the janitor, thrown into the dumpster, piled into garbage truck, taken to landfill or waste to energy plant. (Recycling would be different) Ask students what would happen if the entire school used two sides instead of one. (money saved, pollution reduced, energy and natural resources conserved.)
5. Have each group record ways they could reuse paper that was not completely used. Share ideas. Possibly repeat activity with other items used in the classroom.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain a room reusing center (at holiday time, you might call it Santa's Re-use Workshop). Make gifts, models, decorations, collages, bookmarks, name tags.
2. Give each student a 12 x 12 inch piece of Masonite painted a slate color to use instead of paper for practicing writing and drawing skills. Use chalk and erase the markings with a cloth at the conclusion of each exercise.
3. Instead of using construction paper to teach color awareness, use colors cut from magazine pictures.
4. Have the students, working with partners, make two lists: (1) all the paper products they use at home; (2) possible substitute products that could be used instead of the paper products. For example:

PAPER ITEMS

paper napkins
paper plates
tissues
paper towels

OTHER CHOICES

cloth napkins
washable dishes
handkerchiefs
cloth rags or sponges